

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

sub 1. A method for generating a rebate in a postage meter resetting system, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a postage refill request at a postage data center to electronically add postage to a postage meter;

determining at the postage data center a rebate value associated with the postage refill request; and

sending the rebate value to a designated location.

2. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising sending the rebate value in the form of a check.

3. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising sending the rebate value as an electronic funds transfer to a designated account.

4. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising sending the rebate value as a credit for posting at one of a credit card account and a postage line of credit database.

5. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising sending the rebate value as a certificate that is redeemable upon presentment to a vendor.

sub 6. A method as recited in claim 5, further comprising cryptographically securing the certificate.

7. A method as recited in claim 5, further comprising sending the certificate in electronic form to one of a facsimile, a postage meter, and an e-mail address.

8. A method as recited in claim 5, wherein the certificate is redeemable for one of money, services, supplies, discounts, and postage.

9. A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising receiving with the postage refill request a user preference for sending the rebate value, the preference being selected at the time of the postage refill request from one of issuing a check, electronically transferring funds, crediting an account, electronically transferring postage, and issuing a certificate.

10. A data center for a postage meter resetting system, the data center comprising:

a computer that receives a postage refill request to electronically add a postage refill amount to a postage meter;

means for determining at the computer a rebate value associated with the postage refill request; and

means for sending the rebate value to a designated location.

11. A data center as recited in claim 10, wherein the determining means determines the rebate value based on the postage refill amount.

12. A data center as recited in claim 11, wherein the determining means determines the rebate value as a percentage of the postage refill amount.

13. A data center as recited in claim 10, wherein the sending means includes means for issuing the rebate value in the form of a check.

14. A data center as recited in claim 10, wherein the sending means includes means for an electronic funds transfer of the rebate value to a designated account.

15. A data center as recited in claim 10, wherein the sending means includes means for sending the rebate value as a credit for posting at one of a credit card account and a postage line of credit database.

16. A data center as recited in claim 10, wherein the sending means includes means for sending the rebate value in the form of a cryptographically secured electronic certificate to at least one of a facsimile, a postage meter and an e-mail address.

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